

newsrelease

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SOUNDWALLS TO RISE ALONG ROUTE 22

Irvine - Construction on four miles of soundwalls on State Route 22, promised to neighboring residences more than 30 years ago, will begin construction this week.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Director Jeff Morales and Senator Joe Dunn, along with a host of local officials, today kicked off construction of the seven soundwalls during a ceremony at Garden Grove City Hall.

“These soundwalls were promised decades ago and unfortunately were overshadowed by other more pressing transportation priorities. Upon taking office, Governor Davis declared his intention to make sure state government lived up to its word and he delivered,” Morales said. “The Governor identified and funded these soundwall projects, allowing the engineering work to proceed. Caltrans has worked around the clock to make this promise a reality. Working together with local and state officials, as well as local governments and the community, we developed an ambitious schedule. Several of the processes were done simultaneously, delivering this project five years ahead of schedule. Now, the work is ready for construction. Relief from the freeway noise for the residents and businesses is on the way.”

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The first wall will be built on the north side of State Route between Valley View and Springdale.

“This groundbreaking proves that through the teamwork of many residents, civic leaders and state government, we can significantly improve the quality of life for families in our community,” stated Senator Joe Dunn (D-Garden Grove).

Construction will begin next month on the southside segment between Valley View and Knott.

Work on the remaining sections of soundwall will commence over the next six months.

Ultimately, soundwalls will be in place from Valley View to Euclid. The soundwalls are being built in coordination with the \$206.5 million State Route 22 high occupancy vehicle (HOV) project that Governor Davis included in his \$5.3 billion Transportation Congestion Relief Program (**TCRP**).

The walls, featuring split –faced concrete blocks, will be 16-feet high. The cost of the seven soundwalls is \$35.7 million. Aesthetic treatments such as vines will be added where possible. There are 58 residences adjacent to the freeway that will directly benefit from construction of these soundwalls. The soundwalls will accommodate the future freeway widening between I-405 and SR-55.

Opened to traffic in the 1960s, the six-lane State Route 22 freeway stretches 12.5 miles from I-405 on the west to SR-55 on the east. Caltrans is a department within the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency that operates and maintains California's transportation system. For more information about the department, please visit its Web site at http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist12/sr22_sw.htm Information about the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency is available on the Internet at www.bth.ca.gov

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